

LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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WEEK 2 OF THE 2021 GENERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We are wrapping up the second week of the legislative session. This week, we passed a base budget that included a \$400 million increase in funding for public education, gave state employees a 3% raise, and set the groundwork for next year's state budget. Additionally, the House Revenue and Taxation Committee passed HB 85, which would provide our senior population with a social security tax cut. We have several important pieces of legislation to look forward to and many challenges to address in coming weeks.

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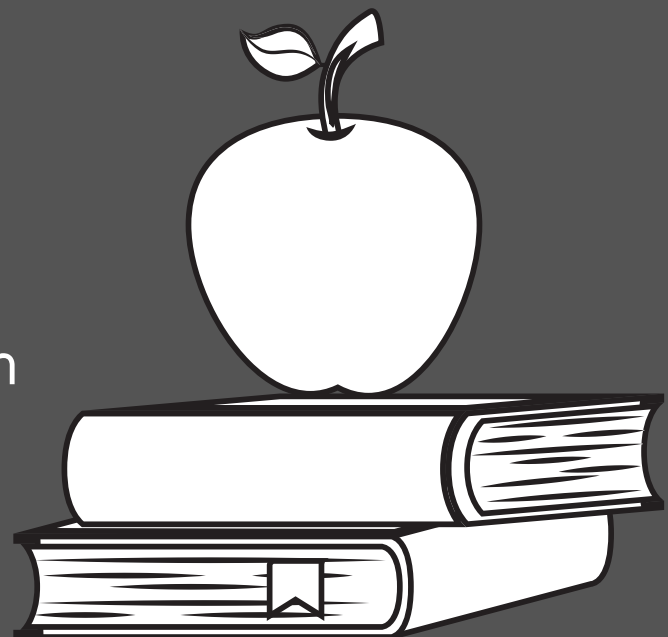
Utah House of
Representatives

BASE BUDGET BILLS



During the second week of each session, the Legislature passes a base budget for the following fiscal year. This week's podcast features Representative Brad Last, Chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee. [Listen here](#) to learn more about Utah's base budget including why it's important and how it came to be.

Additionally, S.B. 1 Public Education Base Budget Amendments passed both the House and the Senate this week. This is the single biggest investment for public education in state history with nearly \$6.5 billion in funding for FY 2022 and FY 2023.



RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DONOVAN MITCHELL



This week, the House passed HR 3, House Resolution Honoring Donovan Mitchell over Shaquille O'neal. Wearing her referee jersey, Rep. Kera Birkeland presented the resolution recognizing Donovan Mitchell for his indomitable spirit and dedication on and off the court stating, "The House of Representatives of the State of Utah recognizes the exemplary service of Donovan Mitchell Jr. to the Utah Jazz and to the people of the great state of Utah." Although Shaq may think otherwise, we think we are pretty lucky to have Spida represent Utah. Sporting his #45 jersey from the dais, Speaker Wilson said, "We'll take Spida over Shaq any day! [Donovan Mitchell]'s greatness extends far beyond the court. He's an example of service, dedication and selflessness and Utah is lucky to have him."

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS



We look forward to welcoming members of Utah's congressional delegation each session. This week, we were joined by our newest representatives, Congressman Blake Moore and Congressman Burgess Owens. We discussed their roles in D.C. and how we can work together to better the lives of Utahns.



FRESHMAN HIGHLIGHT

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE KOHLER

Representative Mike Kohler was born and raised in Midway, Utah where he and his wife, Laurie, raised their six children. The Kohlers now have 23 grandchildren. He attended Utah State University, studying Ag Econ and Dairy Science for a few years before coming home to run the family farm. He later attended the University of Utah and graduated with a degree in Economics.



Since selling his part of the farm to other family members, Rep. Kohler has managed Midway Irrigation Company which delivers irrigation water to 1000 home connections and 300 shareholder ag users. He also works with Dairy Producers of Utah in government relations and public policy related to state and federal legislation, permitting, environmental stewardship, and sustainability. Before coming to the legislature, Rep. Kohler was a Wasatch County Commissioner for 4 years and Councilman for 12 more. He still farms about 150 acres and raises beef cows, just so his wife will let him have a tractor. Other experiences include coaching football and wrestling at Wasatch High school, working as an EMT, and being a member of Wasatch County Search and Rescue. Rep. Kohler also has a Utah Real Estate License. His favorite family pastimes are boating, four-wheeling, hunting, and going to Disneyland with the grandkids.

COVID-19 VACCINATION QUESTIONS



We are excited to see more and more Utahns receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. The Utah Department of Health has created a comprehensive document that answers many questions and provides in depth information on the vaccine. View the fact sheet by clicking [here.](#)

BILLS PASSED THIS WEEK:

As of Thursday, January 28, the House has passed 55 bills in total. Here are the bills that passed the House during week 2.

- HB 141- Municipal Service Amendments
- HB 60- Conceal Carry Firearms Amendments
- HB 42- Education Agency Report Process Amendments
- HB 30- Tax Amendments
- HB 34- Medical Respite Care Pilot Program
- H.B. 49 Commercial Interior Designers Act Amendments
- H.B. 50 Government Insurance Amendments
- H.B. 46 Student Prosperity Savings Program Amendments
- H.B. 131 State Facility Energy Efficiency Amendments
- H.B. 99 Public Employees Health Program Amendments
- H.B. 181 Personalized Competency-based Learning
- H.B. 7 National Guard, Veterans Affairs, and Legislature Base Budget
- H.B. 1 Higher Education Base Budget
- H.B. 8 State Agency and Higher Education Compensation Appropriations
- H.B. 6 Infrastructure and General Government Base Budget
- H.B. 129 Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence
- H.B. 15 Controlled Substance Amendments
- H.B. 4 Business, Economic Development, and Labor Base Budget